

Agenda Item Number:

**ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY**

Meeting Date: November 18, 2015

Agenda Item Subject: Radon Action Month

Attachment(s): Resolution

Staff or Board Member Reporting: Alan Clapp

Purpose: Action
 Information only
 Information with possible action

Summary Information:

January is National Radon Action Month. Each year, nationally, more than 22,000 people die from radon-induced lung cancer. Roughly 54 percent of those diagnosed with early-stage lung cancer are expected to live no more than five years after diagnosis. Lung cancer can strike anyone, even a nonsmoker.

The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services Division of Health Service Regulation Radiation Protection Section has asked that the Board of Health recognize January as National Radon Action Month. The proposed resolution is attached.

The Orange County Health Department is partnering with the NC Radon program to provide free short-term radon test kits in recognition of National Radon Action Month. A limited supply of radon test kits are being made available locally January 11 through January 29, 2016 through Environmental Health. Approximately 15,000 kits are being distributed statewide. Only one kit per home is needed to determine if a home has a high level of radon.

Recommended Action: Approve
 Approve & forward to Board of Commissioners for action
 Approve & forward to _____
 Accept as information
 Revise & schedule for future action
 Other (detail):

RADON ACTION MONTH

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, radon is a colorless, odorless, naturally occurring radioactive gas that threatens the health of our citizens; and

WHEREAS, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, radon causes more than 20,000 deaths each year, making it the second leading cause of lung cancer deaths in the United State and the number one cause among non-smokers; and

WHEREAS, a national health advisory was issued by the U.S. Surgeon General in 2005 because breathing indoor radon over prolonged periods can present a significant health risk; and

WHEREAS, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, one in 15 homes across the country has an elevated radon level; and

WHEREAS, in North Carolina, based on data collected by the Radiation Protection Section in the Division of Health Service Regulation, radon is present at elevated levels in about seven percent of homes; and

WHEREAS, indoor elevated levels of radon is a preventable and correctable problem; and

WHEREAS, testing for radon is simple and inexpensive, ranging from \$6 to \$30 for do-it-yourself tests with costs of repairs by a professional to reduce the radon level ranging from \$1,500 to approximately \$2,500; and

WHEREAS, the State's Radon Program and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency are encouraging Americans to test their homes for radon, mitigate elevated levels of radon, and build new homes with radon-resistant materials and features;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Orange County Board of Health, do hereby recognize January 2016 as "RADON ACTION MONTH" in Orange County, North Carolina and urge our citizens and interested groups to promote awareness of the hazards of radon exposure, encourage citizens to test and mitigate their homes for radon levels and visit www.ncradon.org for additional radon information